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Tempers Flare as Panel Discusses Seaside Golf

Tempers flared and angry words were exchanged, but considerable light was shed on the problem of putting a pitch-and-putt golf course in Seaside Park at a meeting held Thursday night in Seaside School.

The meeting at times seemed likely to develop into a free-for-all, but calmed down somewhat after the Rev. Richard A. Miller pointed out that "too much heat and not enough light" was being generated, and pleaded for both sides to take a more conciliatory attitude.

Discussing the matter were a panel, consisting of Mrs. Alfred M. Brown, of 22706 Draille Dr., Mrs. Salvatore Guagenti, of 22722 Draille Dr., against the golf course; Mrs. Aileen Goetz, of 5029 Milne Dr., Robert G. Parke, of 5426 Sharynne Lane, for the golf course; and Henry A. Ross, of 4802 Milne Dr., moderator.

About 100 Attend
Also attending the meeting were members of the Torrance Recreation Commission and a number of residents of nearby areas. Attendance included about 100 persons.

Mrs. Guagenti declared that the bond issue for parks passed last April contained no mention of a golf course. A park should consist of trees and recreational facilities for children, she declared.

Parke declared that he felt golf was a good game for family recreation, but expressed doubts that a course should be placed next to Seaside School, where a kindergarten room and new classrooms adjoin park property.

Help Juvenile Delinquency
"This might be an answer or partial answer to the problem of teen-age delinquency," he declared.

Mrs. Basil Lewis, of 22403 Reynolds Dr., declared that in addition to traffic problems, the golf course would also endanger surrounding property.

Nelson Goodyear, Draille Dr. resident, said the commission was doing a good job but felt the park should be a place for "kids to run and play" rather than a golf course.

The audience greeted with laughter Mrs. Goetz' statement that the majority of residents of the area had been told of the golf course, even though it was not on the ballot. "Gardens of the Sepulveda Gardens Homeowners," she said, had personally contacted many of the residents, and most of those who did not know about it had moved in since.

Put Somewhere Else
At this point, Moderator Ross urged that the golf course be put at some other spot, possibly on the new Civic Center site.

The golf course, he said, would be illegal and of specialized use. Residents of the area were opposed to it, and other facilities were needed more, he declared.

He declared that the Commission "should work with us rather than against us" and declared that "recreation is a magic word" which would rally local residents to donate their time in helping to maintain the park.

Commissioner Robert Waegner said that although there was no provision for a golf course on the ballot, neither was there any provision for Seaside Park.

Project Not Secret
In answer to a question from the audience, he declared that the project had not been "kept secret," and said that recreation should be for all. Facilities should not be duplicated, he said, and Seaside School had playground facilities.

Although the school is not open now on week ends, plans are being made to have it open, under a supervised director, he said.

An open park area is much greater hazard than a golf course, he said. Small children should be accompanied by their parents wherever they go, he declared.

At this point, Recreation Commission Chairman J. H. Paget told Moderator Ross that as chairman, "you should conduct the meeting, not take part in it."

Ross replied that he was tired

of "being trampled on by city officials." Residents of the area had been told to "keep their noses out of it," he said.

"Don't try to shove something down their throats," he warned.

Asked by Commissioner Herma Tillim who the city official was that made the statement, Ross said he did not know, but had heard it "by word of mouth."

Mrs. Tillim quoted the dictionary which defines recreation as "re-creating—a refreshment of spirit and strength after toil."

Few Injuries Reported
The Los Feliz pitch-and-putt had 60,000 patrons last year, and only three injuries, she said, while at El Retiro Park in the last few months, there have been three dog bites.

Open park facilities could be dangerous, she said, because of trees and bushes, which offer an attractive potential for sex maniacs.

She engaged in a heated exchange with Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Guagenti, who said that mothers could watch their children from kitchen windows, if necessary.

She urged putting in the park, which could be put in for \$300, but would cost "three times that" if put in later. It could easily be taken out if it proved unsatisfactory, she said.

Although charges would be made for golf facilities a free picnic and playground area would be included, as well as a recreational building.

"Steamrolling" Charged
Goodyear declared he didn't think the Commission should be "steamrolling" the golf course through.

At this point, Rev. Miller arose to plead for a more conciliatory attitude.

The objectors to the plan came forward only when the bids had been let, Mrs. Tillim said.

"The plan of recreation is for Torrance, not for individuals," she said. "It is not my park, it is not your park. It is a Torrance park."

She urged a "cooling off period" for discussion.

Sees No Progress
One of the audience declared that "I can't see where the city of Torrance has done anything at all for us out here!"

Mrs. Lewis asked if plans for the park were available, and said, "We should see what we're arguing about."

Commissioner C. W. Olson praised the work of Recreation

Director Harry Van Bellehem, and declared that great improvement has been made in the program in the last two years.

"Sometimes we couldn't get what we wanted," he said. "Seaside Park wasn't just what we wanted, but we were glad to get it."

Because of the terrain, the Commission had decided, after consultation that a golf course was best suited, he said. All golf shots were designed toward the center of the course, he declared.

"No Interest" Shown
"If you'd really have been interested in the course, you'd have found out about it before we let bids," he said.

A woman in the audience explained that she was one of many who had moved into the area in the last nine months, and had been too busy getting settled to find out.

"When I think of parks, I think of picnics, playgrounds, badminton, and the like," she said. "Golf never entered my mind."

Olson explained that a recreation building was planned, about the size of that of El Retiro Park, as well as a playground, picnic area, and parking lot for some 36 cars.

He estimated that about three-fourths of the park would be taken up by the golf course, with the remainder for the other facilities.

Recreation Sought
People in the area have wanted recreation for eight years, Mrs. Paul O. Roettger, of 23043 Doris Way, said.

"We don't have delinquency in four, five, and six-year-olds," he declared. "What we need is teenage recreation. If this is the best plan for this lousy piece of ground, let's give it a try."

Olson urged that the plan be tried.

The traffic problem was attacked by Ross, who declared that children in the streets were endangered by the increased traffic to and from the park.

Commissioner Mary Lee Boswell assured the residents that all the arguments at the meeting would be taken into consideration when the Commission makes its decision.

"Our minds can be changed," she said.

Ross agreed that many arguments had been heard, but declared, "We don't intend to drop it."



CITY WINS TROPHY . . . The coveted Earle M. Jorgensen trophy going to the top community in the County during the month-long Red Cross fund drive came to Torrance this week after Chairman Albert Isen (right) reported 107 percent of the quota raised at the final report meeting. Holding up half of the trophy with Isen is Mervin Schwab, industry chairman for the drive.

Toastmasters to Seat New Officers Tuesday

Frank C. Gorbet, of 2156 W. 240th St., will be installed president of the Torrance Toastmasters tomorrow evening at a dinner meeting of the club in south Torrance. Gorbet, who is employed at the General Petroleum refinery here, will succeed Gill Kyllingstad in the post.

George Hatfield, current area governor of Toastmasters, will install Gorbet along with other officers of the club. Scheduled to assume offices with Gorbet are Kenneth McGreen, vice president; Paul Fisher, secretary; Bob Hutchens, treasurer and Harold Briggs, sergeant-at-arms.

Fire Causes Extensive Damage at Irish Shanty

Fire apparently started by a cigarette in the waste box swept through the Irish Shanty Cafe, 2166 Torrance Blvd., causing considerable damage to the interior.

Torrance firemen were called out to extinguish the blaze which charred tables and furnishings, and did considerable smoke damage to walls and other furnishings. The fire started behind a counter in the rear of the cafe.

Elk Officer Installation Set April 6

District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler Floyd Tumbleton will act as installing officer for the newly elected officers of the Torrance Elks Lodge Wednesday night.

New officers to be installed are Joseph E. Yates, exalted ruler; F. W. Fahnestock, esteemed leading knight; Ralph Lackey, secretary; Marvin Pike, knight; Roger Holmes, esteemed lecturing knight; C. W. Jakubowski, esteemed loyal treasurer; Sid Low, tiler.

C. P. Olsen, Frank Jakubowski, Harry Carlson, Michael Fenwick, and Jacob Turpel, trustees; Jack Bassett, esquire; Ace Littleton, assistant esquire; Charles Marquand, inner guard; Bob Strand, assistant inner guard; Robert Burke, Chaplain; Warren Akridge, assistant Chaplain; Jimmy Whitmer, organist and John T. McMillan, assistant organist.

An inaugural ball is scheduled on Saturday, starting at 6:30 p. m., with Ray Dietrich and his orchestra furnishing music. A smorgasbord will be served at the ball, to be held at the Lodge Hall.

St. Andrew's to Hold Easter Week Services

Holy Communion services are planned at 11 a. m. today, Tuesday, and Wednesday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

On Holy Thursday, an 8 p. m. communion service and sermon will be held. The church will join with others for the community service to be held at the First Lutheran Church at Carson and Flower.

Top Red Cross Honors to City

Torrance came through with 106.02 per cent of its \$13,900 quota in the 1955 American Red Cross fund campaign during March to win the coveted Earle M. Jorgensen perpetual trophy as the top division in the county with a fund goal under \$50,000.

Announcement of the trophy win was made at the final report luncheon of the current drive last Thursday, according to Chairman Albert Isen, who brought the huge trophy back to Torrance where it will remain for the next year. One other area, Lawndale, went over the 100 per cent mark, but Lawndale lost out to Torrance when it reported

only 101.07 per cent of its \$1050 goal. Torrance raised \$14,737.63 of its \$13,900 goal before the final check-in date.

Palos Verdes Third
Finishing third in the County was the Palos Verdes-Rolling Hills section with 96 per cent of its \$8400 goal.

Other area reports included South Bay, 93 per cent; San Pedro, 89 per cent; Wilmington, 88 per cent; Lomita, 76 per cent; Gardena, 67 per cent; and Hawthorne, 50 per cent. All divisions of the Torrance campaign went "over the top" in the drive, Chairman Isen reported. The residential section under the leadership of Mrs. Grover C. Whyte raised 101 per cent of its goal, the small business division under Mrs. Murray Rudnick raised 108 per cent; and the commerce and industry section under Mervin M. Schwab raised 109 per cent.

Chairmen Lauded
"Without the excellent showings of these division chairmen and the volunteers who made the hundreds of contacts to raise the money, we could not have been the top community in the county," Chairman Isen said Saturday.

Also on the program for the evening will be the semi-annual speech contest of the club in which Scott Albright will compete against Warren Jensen of West Los Angeles, Kenneth McGreen of Palos Verdes Estates, and Kyllingstad of Harbor City. Judges will be representatives of other clubs in the area.

Winner of the contest will receive a trophy.

Easter Week Recreation Plans Told

In Easter week activities at Torrance Parks, six playgrounds will be open for vacation play, with an Easter Fashion Parade scheduled to climax the festivities.

Free play will be held at the following playgrounds, with directors:

Carr School, James Jackson, Seaside School, Robert Dollarhide and Vern Clary, Fernside and Vern Clary, William Greenwood School, William Taylor, Walteria Park, Lloyd Hartline, and El Retiro Park, Vallarie Daniels and Vern Clary.

Handicraft Classes Set
Handicraft classes will be held in some areas, as will special Easter parties at the end of the week.

An all-city Easter egg hunt will be held at El Prado Park at 10 a. m. Saturday morning, sponsored by Torrance merchants.

North Torrance youngsters will have their traditional puppet show in the band shell at Torrance Park Sunday at 1:30 p. m.

Immediately following, the second annual iddickie fashion parade will be held. For children from four to seven, the show will start at 3 p. m.

Trophies Planned
Trophies will be given for the most colorful costume, best matched costumes (2 boys, 2 girls, or boy and girl), best-dressed boy, and best-dressed girl.

All registration will be made at the time of the event. Last year's event drew over 600 entries.

Homeowners to Meet
Street lighting will come in for discussion at the meeting of the Sepulveda Gardens Homeowners Tuesday night at 7:30 p. m. at Seaside, President Aileen Goetz has announced.

Election In June Foreseen

The attempt of Palos Verdes Estates to cut off the proposed annexation of 6500 acres of the Rolling Hills area to Torrance apparently wound up in the "Who Cares" file last week with the disclosure in Thursday's HERALD that an end run maneuver would open the way to annexation regardless of the Palos Verdes plans.

According to new boundary descriptions published in the HERALD Thursday, the Palos Verdes Properties officials seek to annex the huge undeveloped area to Torrance as inhabited territory and will connect the area to Torrance through a shoestring area running through the Chadwick School property east of the strip proposed to be annexed to Palos Verdes.

The Torrance City Council met Wednesday evening to accept the boundary descriptions and gave the green light to the plan. In another special meeting Thursday afternoon, the Council adopted a resolution approving circulation of a petition of intention to annex land to Torrance.

A New Beginning
"This action by the Council constitutes the legal beginning of a new procedure in annexing the area to Torrance," City Attorney James M. Hall said Friday. He and other officials implied that there appeared to be little or nothing that Palos Verdes Estates could do to cut off this annexation bid.

Ivar O. Hanson, general manager of Palos Verdes Properties, said the outcome of the proceedings thus far had worked to the advantage of Torrance taxwise. He pointed out that the petition could not be presented to the Council before 21 days had passed since last Wednesday, that an election could not be held for another 30 days after that. The tax potential of the area was increasing daily, he said.

Election In June
With the minimum of 71 days that must pass before an election can be held, it means that an election can be called any time after the second week in June.

Previous attempts by Palos Verdes Properties to annex the area to Torrance as uninhabited territory were halted when representatives of the Rancho Palos Verdes Protective Assn. came up with the information that 19 registered voters resided in the area at the time the petition was presented to Torrance. Ten of those registered had made themselves eligible just before the petition was filed.

Martin Voogd to Head Operation At Shell Plants

Appointments of personnel to head the recently acquired synthetic rubber plants in the Torrance area were announced Friday by R. C. McCurdy, president of the Shell Chemical Corp.

The three plants were recently purchased from the government by the Shell-firm for \$30,000,000, and will revert to private ownership about April 25.

The present manager of the butadiene plant, Martin Voogd, will head the combined butadiene-styrene-copolymer units. Superintendent under Voogd will be G. S. Williamson, who is now superintendent at the butadiene plant.

Heading a new marketing division to handle synthetic rubber sales will be J. E. Cunningham, now manager of the company's product development department in New York. J. E. Toevs, currently district chemical sales manager in Los Angeles, will be sales manager.

The transfer to Shell ownership will be made "without a hitch and without losing a minute," McCurdy declared.

Outlets for the firms products have been secured, he explained, and price levels will remain at the same levels set by the government.

The Shell company built the Torrance butadiene plant in 1943, and operated it. It was deactivated after World War II, but was again put into production in 1950, with the outbreak of the Korean War.



TILL DEATH DID THEM PART . . . A forlorn Collie stood guard over the body of his dead playmate, an Irish setter, in North Torrance Saturday morning until Humane Society officials took him away. The Collie kept everyone away from the body of his pal, which was hit by a passing car.

Services Set Tuesday For John Glen Wilson

Funeral services for John Glen Wilson, 83, a resident of this area for 35 years, will be held tomorrow at 10 a. m. at Stone and Myers Chapel, with members of the Lomita Masonic Lodge officiating. He died Tuesday.

A retired contractor, he was a past member of the local Masonic lodge. He lived at 1906 W. 235th St.

He is survived by his widow, Ruth, step-daughter, Billie Levesque, of Long Beach; and a nephew, John P. Wilson, of Lomita.

Lutherans Schedule Holy Week Services

Pastor Paul Wenske will deliver the last in the series of Lenten meditations, "I. Pilate Speak," at 7:30 p. m., Wednesday, at the First Lutheran Church.

On Maunday Thursday, Holy Communion will be administered to members at 7:30 p. m. Good Friday services will be a directed thought meditation, based on the seven last words of the Cross, by Pastor Sierkes. The Chancel Choir will sing "For God So Loved The World."



REHEARSING FIRST PRODUCTION . . . Discussing plans for the first production by A-CENT Theatre! are members of the board of directors for the organization. Left to right are Hank Heinlein, president; Betty Kistler, recording secretary; Marion Humphrey, treasurer; Jo Harestad, vice-president; and Dene Fyeatt, corresponding secretary.